

# ***Containment Laboratory Community Advisory Committee***

## ***Meeting Minutes***

City Hall Board Room, 100 N. Court Street, Frederick

April 19, 2011

7:00 – 9:00 pm

### **Members Present:**

Ms. Roxanne Beal (Second Alternate Member)  
Dr. F. Alex Hamill, Secretary (At-Large Member)  
Mr. Ray A. Hunter (At-Large Member).  
Mr. David P. Kaye, Vice Chair (Life Sciences Industry Member)  
Mr. Joseph A. Mangiafico, Sr. (Private-Sector Health Field Member)  
Ms. Cynthia I. Sigler (At-Large Member)  
Ms. Beth A. Willis, Chair (At-Large Member)  
Honorable David P. Gray (County Representative and Non-voting Member)

### **Members Not Present:**

Mr. Peter Herz (At-Large Member)  
Mr. Kim Loll (First Alternate Member)  
Honorable Karen Young, Alderman (City Representative and Non-voting Member)

### **Others Present:**

COL John P. Skvorak, Commander, US Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious  
Diseases  
Ms. Caree Vander Linden (USAMRIID Liaison)  
Members of the general public

---

### **I. Call to Order**

Ms. Beth Willis, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Ms. Willis advised the meeting is being televised live on Channel 99 and available for later viewing through the City of Frederick's web site. She advised meetings would also be shown on County Channel 19 on the Saturday following the meeting at 10 p.m.

Ms. Willis welcomed representatives from Senator Mikulski and Senator Cardin's offices.

### **II. Roll Call**

Members present introduced themselves.

### III. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Willis noted a draft of the minutes from the March 15, 2011 meeting had been distributed. She asked for any additional comments and none were offered. **A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to approve the minutes.** Ms. Willis advised the minutes will be posted soon on the City of Frederick's web site.

### IV. Open Issues (Old Business)

#### A) Status of Minute-Taking

Ms. Willis thanked Fort Detrick Garrison for providing Ms. Harris to take meeting minutes. She stated the Committee may have to consider rotating minute taking among committee members in the future.

#### B) Report on Status of 2010 National Research Council Recommendations

Ms. Willis introduced COL John Skvorak, Commander, U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID). COL Skvorak distributed hard copies of a presentation entitled "Review of the National Academy of Sciences Report: Recommendations and USAMRIID Response."

COL Skvorak noted his discussion would be a follow-up briefing as he had previously provided information to the Committee. He reminded those present the National Research Council had looked at the adequacy of the analysis of safety risks associated with exposure to pathogen research in September 2008 with the final report and recommendations published in March 2010. COL Skvorak then reviewed the recommendations and their status.

**Recommendation 1-Assessment of the EIS: "The Army [should] consider developing detailed and practical guidance for conducting hazard assessments of infectious agents for inclusion in its guidance for implementing NEPA to improve future EIS [Environmental Impact Statement] processes and products."**

**Status:** COL Skvorak stated these recommendations were forwarded to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment for Army-wide consideration. COL Skvorak noted greater requirements can and are being imposed at his level. He advised a formal working relationship has been entered into with the National Academy of Science to review the proposed risk assessment approach for the Medical Countermeasures Test and Evaluation Facility EIS. He stated the Academy had held the first public meeting regarding the proposed approach on March 21.

#### **Recommendation 2-Lab Regulations and Operating Requirements.**

**Status:** COL Skvorak noted the National Academy of Science had challenged USAMRIID to continue to do a good job. He stated his most important responsibilities are the safety, security and health of employees, the community, and the environment. He said the second part of the recommendation looked at three incidents over greater than ten years and suggested USAMRIID develop responsible conduct of research training. He provided a list of quarterly briefing sessions which have been held for employees using both in-house experts and some external experts.

COL Skvorak advised a task force had been formed to look at personal protective equipment to be used to prevent laboratory-acquired infections. He stated the task force's three recommendations had been approved and are being enforced. He advised the actions included training for the entire institute and condensing information on existing posters to a small card for all employees on reporting requirements. He said an additional recommendation, to provide the Tularemia vaccine, will be offered to employees but cannot be required.

### **Recommendation 3-Medical and Emergency Response.**

**Recommendation A:** COL Skvorak explained this recommendation suggested medical professionals outside of Fort Detrick should have access to medical expertise available from professionals within USAMRIID.

**Status:** COL Skvorak advised USAMRIID and Frederick Memorial Hospital have had an agreement in place for mutual support and training. COL Skvorak listed some of the recent quarterly training offered by Army staff and open to medical professionals from Frederick Memorial Hospital. He stated the Hospital also has an on-call roster and point of contact list for consultation 24 hours a day/seven days a week.

**Recommendation B:** COL Skvorak noted this recommendation was for improved communication between USAMRIID scientists and community physicians.

**Status:** COL Skvorak stated USAMRIID participates on a number of existing committees and working groups, and a new sub-group has been formed with Medical Directors associated with Campus labs. He advised the Frederick County Public Health Officer has been added to the communications chain for receiving any mishap reports.

**Recommendation C:** COL Skvorak said this recommendation called for a central stable civilian point of contact for communication between the community and Fort Detrick.

**Status:** COL Skvorak advised Fort Detrick Garrison's Directorate of Emergency Services provides this type of communication and coordination. He said Fort Detrick's emergency preparedness plan has been shared with Frederick County, and he provided a list of joint exercises held during the past few years, as well as upcoming exercises. He stated USAMRIID also has an emergency plan which is reviewed by the Garrison and shared with the County.

### **Recommendation 4-Communication/Cooperation with the Public**

**Recommendation A: "USAMRIID should expand its two-way communication with the public."**

**Status:** COL Skvorak stated USAMRIID has been responsive in the past but not always proactive and is now more proactive. He noted improved communications have included disclosing lab mishaps to the public. He said the information was provided to the media and a presentation made to the Community Liaison Council; USAMRIID is also working on its public web site so information can be posted there. COL Skvorak stated the recommendation for fact sheets on pathogens would be best fulfilled by the fact sheets available on the Center for Disease Control's web site. He stated open houses and tours may be possible in the future, but a USAMRIID visitors' center is unlikely.

**Recommendation B: “USAMRIID should consider strategies that have been used by other containment laboratories to enhance community understanding and facilitate integration into the community.”**

**Status:** COL Skvorak advised USAMRIID had contacted other BSL-4 labs and ideas are being shared. He stated there is more communication with the community and the media. He said a USAMRIID 101 presentation has been developed and presented at several meetings, with other presentations planned in the next few months. COL Skvorak noted the County Council had suggested USAMRIID contact the Neighborhood Advisory Councils, and they have contacted the five Councils that border Fort Detrick and will be contacting the other Councils in the future.

**Recommendation C: “USAMRIID should...include community members on the Institutional Biosafety Committee or other relevant committees.”**

**Status:** COL Skvorak advised there are two community members not affiliated with USAMRIID are on the Institutional Biosafety Committee.

**Recommendation D: “USAMRIID should...create a community advisory board...”**

**Status:** He stated the Containment Laboratory Community Advisory Committee is active and meeting.

Ms. Willis invited questions and comments on the presentation from the Committee.

### **Comments by the Committee**

- Mr. Ray Hunter commented that he did not fully understand why the Army decided to develop an Environmental Impact Statement since the facility had already been designated by Congress to be at Fort Detrick and a major part of the Environmental Impact Statement is to look at alternatives sites and the no action alternative.
- The Committee stressed the importance of the community having an understanding of what will occur in the event of an incident at a containment laboratory, particularly in terms of how the community will be notified and receive communications. The Committee emphasized the community needing to know that they will be protected and safe.
- The Committee suggested USAMRIID address some basic questions and misconceptions that the community has so more complex issues can be discussed. One suggestion is that perhaps a video be made to show the public the types of research performed which could graphically depict the small amount of agents used.

### **Questions from the Committee**

**Question 1:** Ms. Willis stated that there were recommendations by the National Research Council about ways in which hazard scenarios were not transparent or perhaps not fully developed or for which mitigation strategies should be developed. She said the community is concerned that the content of those concerns be addressed. She asked how these unexplored risks in the hazard assessment are being addressed. Ms. Roxanne Beal asked if a drill or exercise had ever been

conducted involving a potential aerosol release and how the community would receive communications.

**Answer 1:** COL Skvorak responded the Council's recommendation was in the future to do a better job developing scenarios which USAMRIID is trying to do. He stated the National Research Council advised they could not come up with a reasonable scenario which would involve an aerosol release which indicates they know USAMRIID systems and working procedures and that adequate safety measures are in place. He stated he did not know of any containment laboratory which had exercised an aerosol release scenario. He reminded the Committee the research is conducted with very small quantities within a facility designed for containment. He stated the communications would be through the Garrison and through the first responders in the event of an incident.

**Question 2:** Mr. Hunter asked what would occur in the event of loss of power. He also asked about a fire or hurricane or tornado increasing the likelihood of a release.

**Answer 2:** COL Skvorak responded the new building will have uninterrupted, contingent power capability. He stated the existing building has backup generators that run on diesel fuel; with full tanks, the building can run for 48 hours. He added the backup power capability is required by the Centers for Disease Control. COL Skvorak explained a fire would destroy the agents. He stated the containment laboratories provide good protection against weather, but he would need to get specifics on the level of protection the laboratory was constructed to from the facility engineer.

**Question 3:** Mr. Alex Hamill asked if an incident occurred would USAMRIID continue business as usual with backup power or close down in a safe manner.

**Answer 3:** COL Skvorak responded that anything critical would be taken care of and then operations would be curtailed.

**Question 4:** Several committee members expressed their and the community's desire to have more information about emergency plans in place, mitigation measures, and the kinds of contingencies the Army is preparing for through its plans and exercises, as well as how the public will receive communications and information during an emergency.

**Answer 4:** COL Skvorak responded that USAMRIID as well as Fort Detrick's Garrison have emergency plans that are shared with the first responders and the County. He stated if the Committee submits a request to see the plans, he will investigate whether they can be released to the Committee.

**Question 5:** Hon. David Gray stated the community is not convinced that Fort Detrick will protect the community or be motivated to discuss the type of research being conducted at Fort Detrick. He stated the Army has a different chain of command and motivation than the community, and COL Skvorak needs to take orders from those above him. He stated it is important for the community to feel Fort Detrick is on the community's side. Ms. Beal added that many of the Army personnel are only stationed at Fort Detrick for a few years, while the community members live in the area for many years.

**Answer 5:** COL Skvorak responded that the 800 workers at USAMRIID also live in the community so they are protecting themselves and their families as part of the community. COL Skvorak noted he has been at Fort Detrick for 11 years.

**Question 6:** Ms. Willis asked for more information regarding the education of the local medical community and how successfully basic information, such as who to contact in an emergency, is being communicated to local primary care physicians.

**Answer 6:** COL Skvorak responded that USAMRIID physicians and other Fort Detrick physicians are having routine interactions with the local medical community. He stated this type of interaction is one way to establish contacts and relationships so the local medical community knows who to call when they need information. He advised they have not received any calls from Frederick Memorial Hospital lately but stated the Hospital will call USAMRIID physicians when needed. COL Skvorak reminded the Committee that the medical community is faced with unusual medical cases every day and follows a system to get the information they need. He stated physicians have a network they use to get the information they need, and USAMRIID is one of those resources.

**Question 7:** Mr. Joseph Mangiafico asked if under USAMRIID laboratory regulations and operating requirements, there is any formal training that PhDs and bio laboratory technicians need to go through before working in a BSL-3 or BSL-4 laboratory.

**Answer 7:** COL Skvorak responded there is a good program in place of training for lab workers for BSL-3 and BSL-4 laboratories. He noted that all personnel receive some level of training.

**Question 8:** Mr. Mangiafico asked if information on what agents are being worked with can be provided to the community.

**Answer 8:** COL Skvorak said all the agents are listed in the National Research Council report. Ms. Willis said link to the agent fact sheets referred to by COL Skvorak on the CDC web site can be added to the Committee's web site.

**Question 9:** Mr. Mangiafico asked if the names of the community members serving on the Institutional Biosafety Committee can be provided.

**Answer 9:** COL Skvorak confirmed the two members are from the local community. He stated he would ask if they would agree to their names being released, and if they agree, he will provide them.

**Question 10:** Ms. Beal asked if USAMRIID has conducted an exercise scenario involving the escape of laboratory animals.

**Answer 10:** COL Skvorak responded that such an exercise has not been conducted during his time at USAMRIID. He stated the same security systems that keep people out, keep animals in.

### **Questions from General Public**

**Question 11:** Dr. Dat Duthinh expressed his appreciation for the Committee's ongoing work. Dr. Duthinh expressed concern about the Environmental Impact Statement stating it had many deficiencies. He asked if the Army had conducted its own review of the Environmental Impact Statement and if the Army's review was available to the public. Dr. Duthinh stated seeing the Army's own internal review would give him confidence that perhaps the system is self-correcting if the Army recognized the problems with the document. He asked for information about how the consultant who prepared the Environmental Impact Statement was selected. Dr. Duthinh asked for reassurances that future safety assessments will be subject to external reviews and include better

safety assessments involving foreseeable scenarios. He also asked if USAMRIID would release its safety procedures and information on accidents and near misses for public scrutiny.

**Answer 11:** COL Skvorak advised the original Environmental Impact Statement was signed by the USAMRIID Commander so the Army did its own internal review. He said the National Academy of Science did a review and provided very good comments; USAMRIID could most likely not improve on the comments submitted by the Academy. COL Skvorak said the Army has asked the National Academy of Science to be involved upfront in looking at the risk assessments associated with the upcoming Environmental Impact Statement.

COL Skvorak said he understands the community's desire to look at USAMRIID's safety procedures and response plans, and he will look at this issue. He said he is very proud of USAMRIID's safety record. He noted when there is a mishap a number of agencies receive reports and are asked to comment on the Army's response to the mishap. In response to a follow-up question from Mr. Gray, COL Skvorak said all agencies receive the same information. He explained while the research being conducted is not classified, part of USAMRIID's plans contain information about security plans which need to be protected.

Ms. Willis advised two previous presentations about safety are available on the Committee's web site.

**Question 12:** Mr. George Rudy suggested many questions and concerns could be addressed if USAMRIID provided its design basis report and design basis accident set for this site. Mr. Hunter asked if the Committee could request this information from COL Skvorak or would someone further up the chain of command have to concur before it could be provided.

**Answer 12:** COL Skvorak confirmed it would be his decision.

**Question 13:** Mr. Benjamin Swet asked what would happen if an earthquake occurred.

**Answer 13:** COL Skvorak responded that he would obtain the standards to which the buildings are constructed and provide the information to the Committee.

### **C) Review Status of Action Items**

Ms. Willis suggested the review of action items and the balance of the agenda be deferred to the May meeting.

## **V. New Business**

### **Meeting Schedule**

Ms. Willis stated the next meeting will be May 17 at 7 p.m. at City Hall. She advised meetings would be moved to the second Tuesday of the month starting in June.

## **VI. Adjournment**

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

# ***Containment Laboratory Community Advisory Committee***

## **SUMMARY OF KEY MOTIONS/DECISIONS**

### **February 8, 2011 Meeting**

- To approve the January 25, 2011 minutes with the changes proposed.
- To adopt the charter and by-laws as corrected.
- To accept the initial list of priority issues.
- To accept the Army's offer to help with providing a draft of the meeting minutes and for the Committee to have the authority for finalizing the minutes including any needed corrections, additions, deletions, and modifications.
- To elect Ms. Willis as Committee Chair for a period of one year.
- To elect Mr. Kaye as Committee Co-Chair for a period of one year.
- To elect Dr. Alex Hamill as Committee Secretary for a period of one year.
- To affirm the Committee Chair as the Committee spokesperson.
- To review the need for utilizing members of the public on a case by case basis as needed.
- To schedule the town hall meeting for April 19, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Board Room.
- To place short biographies on the web site.

### **March 15, 2011 Meeting**

- To approve the February 8, 2011 minutes with the changes submitted.
- To hold the town hall meeting on April 5, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Board Room.
- To allow ad-hoc appointments of non-Committee members to sub-committees as appropriate.

### **April 19, 2011 Meeting**

- To approve the March 15, 2011 minutes.
- To move Committee meetings to the second Tuesday of the month starting in June.



# ***Containment Laboratory Community Advisory Committee***

## **ACTION ITEMS – NEW AND IN PROGRESS**

<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Date Created</b>	<b>Key Person</b>	<b>Status</b>
6. Contact CDC and State of MD for list of level 3 and 4 labs.	2/8/11	David Kaye	In progress. David Kaye contacted the Maryland Department of Mental Health and Hygiene who advised there are two other bio-containment labs in Frederick County outside of Fort Detrick-Southern Research Institute and another level 3 lab whose name they would not provide. He said they confirmed there are no other level 4 labs. Working on getting name of second private lab. Karen Young said she would help Mr. Kaye try to obtain the name of the second lab. David suggested both be invited to attend a future meeting and give an overview of what they do. David Kaye will contact Southern Research Institute.
9. Arrange tours of steam sterilization plant, incinerator, and EOC.	3/15/11	Lanessa Hill	ongoing
10. Arrange meeting/tour of new facilities with focus on building design.	3/15/11	Lanessa Hill	ongoing
11. Provide mission statements for new labs. Schedule meeting with lab point of contact for May meeting	3/15/11	Lanessa Hill	ongoing

12. Contact Mr. Tim Shelton regarding meeting to discuss emergency response coordination.	3/15/11	Alex Hamill/Beth Willis	ongoing
13. Compile list of agencies that might be invited to participate on an emergency response panel.	3/15/11	Roxanne Beal Ray Hunter	ongoing

# ***Containment Laboratory Community Advisory Committee***

## **ACTION ITEMS – COMPLETED**

<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Date Created</b>	<b>Key Person</b>	<b>Status</b>
1. Post Charter and By-Laws on Web Site.	2/8/11	Karen Young	Completed
2. Transfer Web Site links.	2/8/11	Karen Young	Completed
3. Look at City Web Site for public interaction with Budget and decide if good template for Committee's Web Site.	2/8/11	All Committee Members	Completed
4. Send Committee members a sample biography and advise who they should send their biographies to for the web site	2/8/11	David Kaye	Completed
5. Send short biography to person identified by David Kaye by 2/28/11.	2/8/11	All Committee Members	Completed
7. Prepare summary of recent tour for web site.	2/8/11	David Kaye	Deferred
8. Contact Lanessa Hill about meeting with Col. Robinson.	2/8/11	David Kaye	Completed
9. Obtain additional copies of NRC report for 4/5/11 forum.	3/15/11	Lanessa Hill	Completed
10. Prepare draft comments for 3/21 NRC meeting.	3/15/11	Beth Willis	Completed
11. Continue to implement communication plan for public forum on 4/5.	3/15/11	Beth Willis	Completed
12. Prepare Committee and website announcement for April 14 municipality meeting.	3/15/11	Beth Willis	Completed